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Testimony of Arlen Hall
IN SUPPORT OF HB 257, an act revising laws related to bicycles
Before the Transportation Committee
January 28, 2013

In the interest of safety of bicyclists and motor vehicle operators, I am in full support of all provisions of HB 257; especially the right-of-way for bicycles, rules for riding on roadways, and the bicycle equipment provisions. The provisions of this bill, along with proper enforcement and public education, may have prevented the near-fatal accident in which I was involved last year.

- Cycling is my occupation; I am the Tours Director for Adventure Cycling Association responsible for designing and executing 73 bicycle tours from 1 week to 3 months in length for adults across the US; 5 of which are in the state of Montana.
- I had more than 45,000 miles of bicycle touring over the past 16 years without an incident. I commute to work everyday on a bicycle and no longer own a motor vehicle. Cycling is my occupation and avocation; it is vital to my life.
- On April 28, 2012 while on a weekend bicycle camping trip with two teens, I was struck from behind by a motor vehicle traveling 45-55 mph. The vehicle did not provide proper clearance between myself and oncoming traffic.
- I was riding along the Eastside Highway about 3 miles north of Stevensville, MT. on a fully-loaded touring bike with 40 pounds of gear in my bright yellow and orange panniers, a reflective triangle and flashing tail light on the rear of the bike. The Eastside Highway has a 3-6" shoulder to the right of white edge line. Overcast day with no glare and clear sightlines.
- The driver was attempting to squeeze between an oncoming vehicle and my bicycle. I was struck by the front right fender and side-view mirror of the vehicle; thrown some 10-15 yards down the embankment. It was described as a flying trash-can by witnesses.
- I suffered a broken fibula in 2 places, badly sprained ankle, contusions and lacerations on the entire left side of my body. I spent weekend in Community Hospital as a result of many tests that were required including x-rays, MRIs, and Cat-scans as well as 2 severe reactions to pain medications. A DVT formed in the following weeks and I spent 6 months on Cumadin. I continue to have severe pain in my left ankle; the injury is being treated to this day.
- The driver was cited for an unsafe pass because of witness statements and the on-scene statement of the driver; a 24 year-old (no cell phone in use).

Had the driver slowed to provide the proper clearance prior to passing as what would have occurred if I had been a slow moving vehicle like a tractor, this accident would have not occurred. Therefore, I urge the members of the committee to support HB 257 in order to support the safety of bicyclists and motor vehicle drivers.